



April 2010

Cross Winds

Newsletter of Winds of the Prairie

Winds of the Prairie Ministry

FIRST WORD: What is in a Name/Title?

Pastor Julie A. K. Anderson

Would you believe that it has been three years since you called Pastor Steve and myself to serve as your pastors? Yes, and a lot has happened, times of celebration and grief, where we have learned to trust and depend upon each other. We have learned that there are expectations and ideals that we have for each other associated with our title and individual gifts. It has been a time of learning and discerning relationships.

When someone hears the title of Pastor, or any other title, it comes with expectations about the person filling the office. It is a title that designates a norm of education, responsibilities and standards for performing the duties associated with the office which the title designates. As pastors we also have expectations of the people who make up our congregations. We have all had experience with persons associated with these titles in the past, good or bad, resulting in expectations that we bring to titles.

Everybody has a name that identifies us as unique individuals with special gifts and attributes. These gifts and understandings are what we bring to the titles and offices of our vocations. Our vocation is our calling to use the gifts we have been given by God to make this world a better place along with others.

Relationships with others are formed as a result of interactions, interventions, and introductions:

- *Interactions* occur at different times and places when events bring us together around common interests and activities that identify us as a group of people.
- *Interventions* occur when we actively insert ourselves into the lives of others to express needs for ourselves or to meet the needs of the other person. (When we intervene we need to differentiate whether we are pushing aggressively to get our own way, being passive to make the person guess what we need, or being assertive by expressing our own needs and being willing to hear and share with each other.)
- *Introduction* is when someone else takes the time to bring two people together as an advocate for the relationship.

This has happened in our own relationship with God. Since Sin (our desire to have our own way) has alienated us from a right relationship with our Father we need someone to help intervene and advocate for the relationship. Jesus is the one who can do that. He is in a right relationship with the Father and can bring us to the Father. When we are introduced to our Heavenly Father we are dependent upon Jesus' relationship with Him. We know the Father because we have a relationship with Jesus. Our relationship with Jesus is based on the faith that he came for the very purpose of taking away the Sin that blocks our relationship with the Father.

The end result is that when we are brought to the Father by Jesus, the Son, we are also given a new title, *child of the father*. Like the prodigal son, we have returned home to the Father. Unlike the older son, Jesus has staked his life on our relationship with him. The Father loves us for our unique character and because the Son loves us.

We can all give this simple gift to each other today. When we share our relationships with each other we are giving each the gift of identity through the sharing of names, titles and vocations. But we live out our relationship with God especially through the inviting a new person into our relationships. So let us not be afraid to introduce others to our friend Jesus for he will bring us all to the Father in the end where the only thing we take from this world is our love found in relationships, through the Son and the Father.

PS. Pastor Steve and I plan on hanging around for a long time to build on the relationships we have already begun and look forward to building more. Take us up on this challenge. Join with us to *interact* with those around us, *intervene* in their lives and *introduce* them to Jesus.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

April 1, Maundy Thursday

6:00 – Seder meal and Communion at Bethany Elim (includes a live Tableau of the Last Supper)

April 2, Good Friday

(note Since it is the nature of this day's worship to remember that Jesus has made the offering for us we do not take up an offering at these services, but reserve our thanks offering for Easter Sunday)

1:00 – Community Good Friday Worship at the Country Church in Ruthton (led by WotP Clergy)

3:00 – Good Friday Holy Communion at Grace in Lake Benton

7:00 – Worship at St. Paul, Minneota

April 3, Holy Saturday

5:30 – Easter Vigil at Bethany Arco

April 4, Easter

6:00 – Sunrise Worship at Diamond Lake (Weather Permitting, snow or cold will move us to Grace, Continental breakfast follows served by WXY Youth)

8:30 – Grace, Peace and St Paul

10:30 – Bethany and Bethany-Elim

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Holy Week Services – all ministers

April 4th – Easter –

Grace and Bethany Elim – Vicar Harvestine

St Paul – Pastor Anderson

Peace and Bethany – Pastor Rasmusson

April 11th – 2nd Easter –

Grace and Bethany Elim – Pastor Rasmusson

St Paul – Vicar Harvestine

Peace and Bethany- Pastor Steven Quist

April 18th – 3rd Easter –

Grace and Bethany Elim – Pastor Rasmusson

St Paul – Vicar Harvestine

Peace and Bethany- Pastor Anderson

April 25th – 4th Easter –

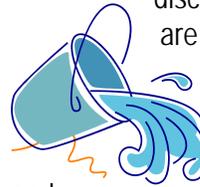
Grace and Bethany Elim – Pastor Anderson

St Paul – Pastor Rasmusson

Peace and Bethany- Vicar Harvestine

WATERS AS A MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

The acronym WATERS is to remember the marks of discipleship that come in our Baptism. These are the vows we make when we affirm our faith.



Worship is gathering as the community of Christ around the Word and Sacraments that make Jesus a part of our daily lives.

Advocacy is different for each of us for we have all embraced different issues of justice and mercy in the world. It is each person's responsibility to make others aware and to speak for those who cannot.

Teaching and Training is hearing and reading the Word to see God's plan for each of us. It is most often in sharing our understandings that we open the Scriptures for each other in studies and sharing.

Evangelism is simply sharing the God news of what Jesus has done for all of humanity. We share other good things why not this one.

Relationship in Service – is following Jesus example of service to the neighbor both near and far. When we serve others we create relationships based on humility and need.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHT WORSHIP

We continue to offer worship on Saturday evenings for those who are in need of an alternative to Sunday morning worship. Services are at 5:30 pm with Holy Communion and rotate among the five churches on the following schedule:

First Saturday of the Month at Bethany Lutheran in Arco on April 3 with the Easter Vigil.

Second Saturday of the Month at Peace Lutheran in Ruthton on April 10.

Third Saturday of the Month at Bethany-Elim Lutheran in Ivanhoe on April 17.

Fourth Saturday of the Month at Grace in Lake Benton on April 24.

Last Saturday of the Month at St Paul Lutheran in Minneota on April 24.

Invite and bring your friends and neighbors as we gather to praise our Lord and Savior.

VIBRANT FAITH FOR ALL AGES

May 8 in Springfield, MN at St John Lutheran Church.

"Mom and Dad, you are not just the chauffeurs who bring your kids to church functions- you are the pastors at your house!" If you are interested in passing on a vibrant faith join others from Winds of the Prairie Ministry on May 8 from 9 to 4 in Springfield. For one price we can bring as many as we like, so we need to know by April 25 to get registration in. Sign ups at each congregation will let us know your desire to attend and allow us to make transportation arrangements. Take a day to learn how to be authentic, available and affirming in your vibrant faith.



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY



The pastors are wondering if anyone would like to have a Bible study before the Wednesday Worship at Diamond Lake. Two studies that we are considering are the one used to discern for the Sexuality Statement and the new GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) Study. These studies are meant to inform and help you to understand better your own views and those of others. Let one of the pastors know by May 1 so arrangements can be made for the study materials.

GOLF @ SHETEK LUTHERAN MINISTRIES



Calling all Golfers to mark your calendars for June 21!!! Shetek Lutheran Ministries is holding the 11th *Great Outdoor Lutheran Fundraiser* at Slayton Country Club. The church or ministry with the most participants wins the traveling participation trophy and with 5 churches we should be able to have at least one team of 4 per church. Registration is around \$75 dollars, with the proceeds going to support the camp. Please let Pastor Julie know so as soon as the registration becomes available we can get it in.

COMMUNICATIONS, OFFICE HOURS & CALENDARS

When calling the Winds of the Prairie Ministry Office please use either the 507-694-1238 or 1-866-944-9687(WotP). Outside of office hours the Bethany-Elim number(507-694-1353) is usually forwarded to the pastor on call and can be accessed from the 1238 voicemail.

With five locations, the pastors are scheduling office hours at each church the rest of the year in an attempt to be more visible and available in all our communities. We have created at www.google.com/accounts online calendars for each church and the ministry. Check below to note who to contact about gaining access to the online calendars.

Winds of the Prairie Ministry office hours for Deb is Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to 12 pm.

[Calendar- belutheran@frontiernet.net](mailto:belutheran@frontiernet.net)

Bethany: Vicar Jackie at Tuesdays 9--11:30-except the third Tuesday for Prairie Conference meeting. [Calendar- rasmus@frontiernet.net](mailto:rasmus@frontiernet.net)

Bethany-Elim: Pastor Steve. [Calendar- beparsonage@frontiernet.net](mailto:beparsonage@frontiernet.net).

Grace: Monday from 9 to 11:30 usually Pastor Julie. [Calendar- glc@itctel.com](mailto:glc@itctel.com)

Peace: Thursday from 9 to 12. [Calendar- philipja@woodstocktel.net](mailto:philipja@woodstocktel.net)

St Paul: First and Third Thursday from 10 to noon followed by Minneota Manor Service at 2:30 on the third Thursday.

Please remember this is the ideal but emergencies, vacations, and all those events life can place in our way will affect the timing, but the pastors will do their best to maintain this commitment. One way to assure meeting is to call and schedule an appointment to meet.

HAITI RELIEF FUND

Our parish has done well in supporting the relief efforts in Haiti. In addition to individual gifts made directly to Lutheran World Relief and to the Synod's Haiti Fund congregations in our parish have donated \$690. This in addition to a check from the parish for \$200 places our parish donations at \$890.

For more information about how your dollars are making a difference or to further support ELCA efforts to care for victims of natural and man made disaster, go to the

website for Lutheran Disaster Response at www.ldr.org or to Lutheran World Relief at www.lwr.org.

SUMMER IS COMING!

Don't you think it is time to get ready for summer? Well, here are some dates to put on the calendar:

May 23 – PENTECOST – Honoring of graduates

June 20-26 – Eagle Butte Servant Trip for Habitat for Humanity

June 23rd – Diamond Lake worships begin on Wednesdays at 7pm.

July 4 – Gospel Fest in Ruthton

July 18-21 – Bicycle Servants Journey

July 29th – Farewell Potluck for Vicar Jackie and John, this year's intern and her husband.

August 14-15 – Family campout and Bluegrass Gospel Worship on the Mountain – Hole in the Mountain Park, Lake Benton

August 15 – New intern arrives

August 18 – New intern Welcome

September 1 – Last Summer Worship at Diamond Lake

September 12 – Rally Sunday and Box-elder Bug Days (New worship times --watch to see if your congregation's time changes or stays the same this year)

WOTP MEMBERS ELECTED TO SYNOD AUXILIARY BOARDS

In addition to our members who are serving on the boards of Women's Ministry from the parish, we now have three other members serving on ELCA Synodical Boards.

Joe Harris (Grace Lutheran) is now serving on the Synod Lutheran Men in Mission Board. Joe will assist the board in planning events and developing strategies to bring men into service in God's church and in His world.

Jessica Epple (Bethany-Elim), who serves as the secretary of the 2009-2010 SWMN Lutheran Youth Organization, was elected to another term at the Youth Assembly in Mankato. Kate Bump (Grace) was elected to her first term. Jessica and Kate will help plan both the Junior Hi Gathering in Willmar (weekend before Thanksgiving) and the Senior Hi Gathering in the spring.

Congratulations and blessing to all who take on these responsibilities! We are honored to have you represent us!

GREETINGS WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE MEMBERS!



For those of you who do not know me, I am Stephanie (Gregor) Christoffels. I'm a member at Bethany-Elim. I graduated from Minneota High School in 2005 and went on to The College of Saint Catherine and graduated this last May. I also commissioned as a 2LT in the Minnesota Army National Guard and am currently in the

Chaplain Candidacy program. My husband, Anthony, is originally from Chandler and is a recent grad of NDSU. Last fall, we both started at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul to begin the journey of ordination in the ELCA. It has been quite an eye-opening experience with much learning. One requirement at Luther is to be "proficient" in Hebrew and Greek. The learning curve is steep and while some days we struggle with the translations, it has been a blessing to be able to read the Holy Scripture in the original language. Our days are packed full of Church history, close readings of the Bible, theology, and congregational and pastoral care. We both have "teaching congregations" where we attend worship and work with the pastors to enhance our education. I am with Grace University Lutheran Church in Minneapolis (right next to the U of M Medical Center Fairview), and Anthony is working with Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in Apple Valley, specifically with the youth. He is specializing in Children, Youth, and Family ministry. These churches are vastly different from each other and from what we are used to coming from rural communities, but we are enjoying the experiences and learning a great deal.

We thank you all for your support as we continue this journey. As of now, we are both leaning more towards rural ministry once we are ordained, but we will see what God has in store for us. We still have 2.5 years of school and one year of internship left, and we hope to have the opportunity to come back to WOTP for supply preaching as we continue through school. Thank you all again and God's Blessings to you and yours during this Lenten season and always.

NOTES FROM THE INTERN



"He has been raised; he is not here. Look there is the place they laid him, just as he told you'. So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. Mark 16: 7—8

"Jesus said to her 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher)... 'Go to my brothers'... Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord!'; and she told them that he had said these things to her". John 20: 16—18

As with the Christmas story, the Easter story is told differently in each gospel. I would suspect that most of us gravitate toward the version of the story which gives us the most comfort. In the Christmas story, it is probably Luke's version with the angels and shepherds and the sweet baby in the manger. Our thoughts usually do not travel to Herod's edict in Matthew which commands the slaughter of innocent children in the hope of snuffing out this new "king". Similarly, John's Easter story has Jesus appearing to Mary, her recognition of him and her joyful dash to tell others the good news. Mark's telling, on the other hand, does not reflect well on those who went to the tomb. It certainly does not provide us a role model for positive behavior and, at best, shaky hope in what the three days accomplished. There have been endings attached to Mark which make it conform more to the other gospels but these are *not* in the earliest found manuscripts. We are left with the disciples cowering in fear, unable to articulate any good news.

One of my seminary professors makes the case that the open-ended stories such as the one in Mark, invite *us* to live out the rest of the story. That is, God's bigger story is dynamic and unfinished. We contribute our portion as we go about the work of the Kingdom in this time and place. Do we, then, go out and proclaim like Mary or huddle in fear like the disciples in Mark?

On March 20th, a group from Winds of the Prairie parish met to talk about evangelism. How do we understand *our* role in proclaiming the good news? We learned that the first step is relationship-building. Sharing our faith starts by creating relationships with people, by really listening to each person's joys, challenges and passions. We had an opportunity to "try out" conversations with people we already know. We continue the learning on Saturday, April 24th at Bethany-Elm. Please consider joining us, even if you were unable to attend the first session.

Recently, there was a pamphlet on my door when I returned home one afternoon from a faith community who is well-known for "door-knocking". I reflected that one reason many of us hesitate to open the door and converse when these folks come to our neighborhood, aside from theological differences, may be that we don't know these people, that we don't have a relationship with them. To consider sharing faith talk with strangers seems unthinkable.

As you discern your life as a disciple of Christ, consider how *you* live out your portion of the Easter story. Where can a relationship be built? With whom can faith be shared?

He is risen indeed!
Peace and Blessings,
Vicar Jackie Harvestine

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR TO FEBRUARY 18 TO MARCH 17, 2010

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
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4- Sundays Worships @ 5 congregations	10- Bible Study 0-TFA	5- Council/Meeting 1-WELCA	2-Funeral 1-Baptism	36- Home 3-Hospital
5- Nursing Home	3- Book Studies	1-WXY	4-Counseling	
4-Saturday Night	1-Letter/Dad	4-Synod	0-Wedding	
4-Lenten Service @ 5 Churches	1-Continuing Ed.	1-LCC		

WHOLENESS WHEEL UPDATE



Once again during the Easter Season we will be exploring the six segments of the wholeness wheel to and set forth goals and objectives in

each segment personally to help us grow healthier in our daily life.

To help you to come to a better understanding of how you operate in these segments here are questions to help you identify your strengths, challenges and obstacles in each area. By understanding what you use, avoid and struggle with you recognize your place in the community and why you need others in the community to help you.

What attitude did your mother/father have toward _____?

What was your attitude toward _____ as a child, teenager, young adult, parent, elder?

What role has _____ played in your life in the past and present?

What is your happiest and unhappiest memories in connection with _____?

How would you describe your current _____ status?

Do you worry about _____? If so, when did you first start and why?

Are you generous or stingy with your _____? In what ways?

What kind of risks are you willing to take with your _____?

What will you do with your _____ as you approach the end of this life?

Intellect (April 11) While we cannot be certain that we will never experience dementia or something similar, using our minds keeps them alert and active. Use it or lose it! Satisfy curiosity by seeking answers. We can stretch our minds by experiencing new things — music, art, hobbies, or travel. Pushing ourselves at work by seeking out new responsibilities and pursuing lifelong learning keeps us healthy and growing.

Social Relationships (April 18) We were created to be social persons by God with instructions to help and love each other. We are nourished by the love and intimacy of our family and friends. Isolation is a significant risk for depression and premature death. Whether we are introverted or extroverted, regular social contact is essential for health. Being healthy means having healthy relationships with family, friends, co-workers and others. Studies have shown that volunteering in service to others actually lengthens life.

Physical fitness (April 25) We are marvelously created by God. While we are not all born perfectly healthy and no one makes it through life without injury or illness, with tending and nurturing we can live well even with disabilities, injuries, or illness. Those with good health can lose it as a result of unhealthy lifestyles and behaviors. Keeping the wholeness wheel in perspective means optimizing our physical health through good nutrition, physical activity, and avoiding risks to our health. It does not mean worshiping physical health at the expense of other aspects of health.

Finances (May 2) In all aspects of well-being we are called to be stewards. Good financial stewards make decisions based on their values, which is evident in the way they save, spend and share. This understanding of stewardship embraces resilience, sustainability and generosity

WELCA SPRING GATHERING TO BE HELD APRIL 16

Women of Prairie Conference churches are invited to take part in the Spring Gathering to be held April 16 at Danebod Lutheran, Tyler. Featured speaker for the day will be Pastor Cory Bjertness of New London. He is a Military Chaplain and has spent time in Iraq. He has a message that everyone should hear.

Registration and coffee will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a registration fee of \$5. The day's program will begin at 9 a.m. with a brief communion service followed by conference business and the speaker. The days' program will end with lunch before we all head for home. An offering will be taken and in-kind offering will be announced as letters come out to congregations.

We would like to have a good representation from Winds of the Prairie

BETHANY NEWS

By Gayle Rasmussen

Lent is coming to a close, and now we are coming to the important Easter. We should celebrate and honor the gift that God has given to us. Happy Easter to all.

We at Bethany are planning some fun and interesting events in the near future (come and help us celebrate May Day!)

The Council would like to thank all for their support of our sup & sandwich suppers held during Lent.

Spring! Can you believe it—after all of the winter that we had. Now is the time for planting. We should plant our Christianity seeds so we can grow in God. Entering this busy season, we pray that everyone has a safe time.

Help us make Bethany a happy church—come and listen to the messages. Peace be with you.

STRRRRRRIKE!

Thanks to all the families who attended the Family Fun Bowling at Nielsen's Lanes in Ivanhoe on March 13. We had a great turnout and heard lots of pins crashing to the floor! It was great to see the bowling alley full and God's children having fun together, cheering each other on, and laughing off a few gutter balls.

PRAYER PAL REVEALING EVENT AT B-E

By Nancy Krog

Thank you to our current Prayer Pals at BE who have been busy praying for the youth of our congregation. A Revealing Event is planned for April 11th before worship at 10 a.m. in the parish hall. We need YOU in attendance. Please plan on attending and meeting your prayer pal...trust me...the kids can hardly wait! We request that NO GIFTS be exchanged during the revealing event. If you wish to exchange one final gift, we request you do it by mail or outside of church.

Remember that your Prayer Pal assignment is complete after April 11. Of course, prayers can continue, but cards and such are no longer necessary. Thanks again for taking time out of your busy schedules to pray for our youth! See you April 11th!

EASTER BREAKFAST AT BETHANY-ELIM

Breakfast will be served at Bethany-Elim on Easter Sunday, April 4th from 9–10am. Sunday School families are providing and serving egg bakes and quick breads for breakfast (sign up on bulletin board). A free will offering will be collected and given back to the church to cover outstanding bills. Bethany-Elim members strongly support the Sunday School program, so this is our chance to "give back" to the church. Let's enjoy a delicious breakfast together and celebrate the risen Lord!

BEEF DINNER THANK YOU

Thank you one and all for helping in any way and contributing to the success of our annual Beef Dinner. The camaraderie and fellowship was an extra bonus as we worked together in the many jobs from beginning to end. Thank you also to everyone who came to the dinner. It was all greatly appreciated.

Bethany-Elim WELCA

GRANDPARENTS & GRAPES EVENT AT BE

By Nancy Krog

What a memorable day! On February 28, the first, second and third graders invited their grandparents to Sunday School and we had five students gather with their grandparents and Cody even brought his great-grandparents along too! We enjoyed goodies that started with the letter "G"; granola bars, grape juice, grapes and graham crackers. The kids traced their hands and made a handprint magnet for their grandparents to take home. We read a wonderful story about the importance of grandparents and the role they play in our lives. The kids worked with their grandparents to complete a family tree and answer questions from their booklet. Some of the questions included: How did my grandparents meet? What bedtime prayer did my grandparents say as a child? What is my grandparents' favorite hymn? What is my grandparents' favorite part of going to church? Where do you feel close to God? The answers were amazing and each child had a remarkable one-on-one experience with their grandparents, bonding, connecting, laughing...all under God's roof. Thank you to all of the families who participated! It was a grand event for all...kids, grandparents, and parents too!

BETHANY-ELIM 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bethany-Elim will celebrate its 125th Anniversary on October 2, 2010! The planning committee is looking for **historical photos** (even from the last 25 years) and **artifacts**. If you have items to display, please label them with your name and drop off at the church during office hours. We are also looking for **volunteers** in any capacity! ALSO—if you have any special **memories** about Bethany-Elim that you would like to share, please submit them in writing by May 1, 2010.

Thank you!
Sharon Rasmussen and the Committee

HOST FAMILY WANTED

By Nancy Krog

We are looking for a host family to provide food and lodging (we can help with the food) for 3-4 Shetek counselors beginning Sunday, June 13 through Thursday, June 17. If you would be willing to house counselors during the week of Vacation Bible School, please contact Nancy Krog at 507-487-5722. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

YOUTH CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Please join us on Sunday, April 18 at the 10:30 am worship service to celebrate our youth at Bethany-Elim. They will be sharing what they've learned over the past year in this youth lead worship service. This is their chance to show us the future leadership of our church and it is awesome! Hope to see you there!

NOTES FROM GRACE

April Ushers: Larry Nueberger, Arlyn Petersen, Lloyd Petersen, Dale Petersen

April Altar Guild- Karen Lichtsinn

April Acolyte Schedule- April 4th-Derek Haugen;
11th-Emily Christensen;
18th-Scott Hunter;
25th-Brandon Hefti
May 2nd-Kate Bump

Wednesday, April 16, Morning – GLCW (Prairie Conference Spring Gathering at Danebod in Tyler)

April 14 – Bible Study. Hostess: Garnet Petersen

GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL

by Pat Johnson

Easter, Sunday, April 4 - No Sunday school

Thank you to everyone that supported our VBS Breakfast Fund Raiser and Raffle on Palm Sunday, March 28. A special thank you to our Sunday school families for your donations and hard work to put it on. It helps us purchase needed VBS materials.

We will be co-sponsoring with the Methodist Church, our VBS "High Seas Expedition" June 7-11. It will run from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. with supper served for attendees from 5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Children 3 years - 6th grade may attend at no charge. Please contact me if you have grandchildren or know of children that would like to attend. They need to be registered by April 25 to get needed materials.

The secret is almost over!!!! On April 25, there will be a special revealing party for our SECRET PRAYER PALS and CHILDREN after church in our fellowship room. I ask that all prayer pals and children please attend. Thank you to everyone that participated in this program. The children truly feel special to have someone praying, caring, and sending them something. You have touched a life forever.

PEACE LUTHERAN NOTES & DATES

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday. An Easter Breakfast will be served by the Sunday School following the Worship Service.

Monday, April 5, 5:30pm -- St. John Circle meets at the church.

Tuesday, April 6, 9am -- St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Jean Lundholm

Tuesday, April 6, 2pm -- St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Joyce Anderson

Wednesday, April 14, 2pm – PLCW

Friday, April 16 – Women of the ELCA Prairie Conference Spring Gathering at Danebod Lutheran, Tyler.

Monday, April 26, 9am -- Quilting Day



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

The family of Jori Ann Magnuson and St. Paul's Lutheran would like to extend a big THANK YOU to our brothers and sisters in Christ across the Winds of the Prairie. It was so heart-warming to feel the support of our parish at the Benefit for Jori Ann and family on March 21st in Minneota. Whether you served food, cleared the tables, greeted guests, bid on silent auction items, enjoyed the good food/fellowship, or said a prayer for Jori, we thank you deeply. As we prepare for the Easter season, we are reminded of how blessed we are to be a part of God's big picture.

St. Paul members it's still not too late to turn in those church record dates as we continue to update our Official record. Please include dates for weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. for your family that occurred 1990-present. Thanks. See everyone at the Easter Service on April 4th at 8:30 am.

PRAYER VIGIL SUGGESTIONS:



During your time of prayer during the vigil find a means that allows you to focus either sitting, walking or coming to church. Besides

praying for those who are on the prayer list you may:

- Prayer for families and individuals in the church directory
- Open the phonebook to your last name and pray for those people.
- Pray using the newspaper, newsletters, new sites or your favorite source of information.
- Pray for our Congregational, Synod and National Councils as they lead our denomination in these times of change.
- Pray up, down and around the main street and homes of your community.
- Imagine yourself in a favorite place and pray for all the people who come there.
- Pray for your friends and the people who challenge you.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bethany (Arco): Pray for Lyle and Kurtis Dougherty on the death of their brother, "Trucker" Dougherty. Pray for Kendall Lundberg, Luella Madsen, Elsie Barber, and Joel Hopkin (Geneva Rasmussen's grandson).

Bethany-Elim (Ivanhoe): Pray for Dave Lawrence, Ken Swanson, Greg VanOverbeke, Dawn Rund, Emily Clarke, Brenda Sheik, Jackson Nelson (son of Ryan & Kate Nelson); Kristi (Dahl) Morelan, and Leann (Dahl) Wadsworth; Dareld Benz (brother of Mavis Nielsen); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen); Linda Vlaminc (Sister-in-Law of Dave & Marlene Lawrence); Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan & Kate Nelson); and Mindy Linscheid (Sister-in-Law of Julie Nelson).

Grace (Lake Benton): Pray for Joe Harris Sr., Lorraine Krog, Mary Paschke, Earl Klitzke, Ernie Bannick, Joyce Knutson, Annette Fehrman, Joyce Nielsen, Ann Kruse, Wesley Paschke, Karen Fredricks, Norma Burdick, Rosina Ritter, Leann Wadsworth, Evelyn Rudebusch, Jacob Johnson, and Chet Borresen

Peace (Ruthton): Pray for Lavonne Fuhrmann, Cliff Kittelson, and Chris Petersen (Kuwait).

St. Paul (Minneota): Pray for Jori Ann Magnuson, Mary Buysse, Reese Kompelien, Doris Richards and Crystal Gawarecki.

Military

Pray for the leaders of this nation and all the nations of the world that all may seek peace. Pray for those family and friends of the members of WOTP who serve in the

military or reserve forces, especially Lucas Oerter, Chris Petersen, Scott Johnson, Anthony Nielsen, Jon Dougherty, Tony Knutson, Christian Vizecky, Jon and Jack Healy, Danielle Thomsen, Michael Colman, Ross, Ryan, Angela, and David Nelson, Allan Peterson, Brook Brown, Derrick Linneman, Todd Board, Kyle Sheik, Alyson Bylone, Steve VandeBerg, Jim Pedersen, Scott Lundberg, Aaron Darrel Lundberg, Justin Schmidt, Adam DeRoode, Pam Gregor, Paul Gregor, Jr., Corey Gregor, Christopher Gregor, Stephanie Christoffels, and Paul Gregor

Tyler Nursing Home:

Marjorie Meyer, Grace Lutheran
Sigurd Nielsen, Grace Lutheran

Divine Providence Nursing Home, Ivanhoe:

Elsie Barber, Bethany Lutheran
Dr. Mary Bird, St. Paul Lutheran
Pat Metzen, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

Hendricks Nursing Home:

Harvey Noble, Bethany Lutheran
Hilda Herschberger, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

Veteran's Home, Luverne:

Evelyn Rudebusch, Grace Lutheran

Youth Pages



"All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today."

FAMILY FAITH

By Nancy Krog



The family devotion I chose this month focuses on wisdom and foolishness. Oh my, we have a lot of that in our family...a small, but important amount of wisdom and

much foolishness in relation to our three girls, a disobedient dog, and a new crop of baby goats; who keep our family full of chaos, giggles and silliness. May we work hard during the month of April to seek out God's

wisdom and put it to work in our own lives and lead our families to the wisdom of God. Let us take pleasure in the foolishness around us and seek out and implement the wisdom given to us from our elders, peers, leaders...and our Lord.

TABLEGRACE:

O God our Creator, we thank you for the joy of this spring season, and for the many fun times we share together. Help us to make each other happy, to laugh, to smile, and to play together. Bless this food. Make this and every meal a time to rejoice in your love. Amen.

NO FOOLIN'

FOCUS: Wisdom and foolishness

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Psalm 14:1, Proverbs 9:10-12

Use this devotion to show your family how to avoid the foolishness of today's temporary world and to gain the riches of God's eternal wisdom.

EQUIPMENT: A variety of kitchen utensils, newspapers or torn paper grocery sacks, a family meal and a Bible.

EXPLORATION: Plan an April Fool's Day dinner for your family with the table setting being the foolish part of the event. Don't allow any regular plates, forks, spoons, or knives. Instead, use items such as skilletts, plastic lids, or cookie sheets as plates and give each person at least two utensils (such as spatula, whisk, ice cream scoop, ladle, measuring cups, etc.) to use as silverware. Use newspapers or grocery bags for the table covering. Collect napkins of various colors. Basically, make the table as much of a hodgepodge as possible!

Serve any meal your family enjoys, as long as it requires the use of utensils. As your family eats (or attempts to eat), ask the following questions:

What's the best April Fool's Day prank you ever pulled? What's the best April Fool's Day prank someone has pulled on you? What would be a fun prank to do if you had a lot of time, money, and help in doing it?

DISCOVERY: Serve dessert. You can pull out the real forks and spoons now. While everyone is at the table, read Psalm 14:1 and discuss the following questions. Did you feel foolish trying to eat with these utensils? Why or why not? How does Psalm 14:1 describe foolish people in this passage? Why do you think a fool could be described in this way?

Read Proverbs 9:10-12, then continue your discussion. Who is the wisest person you know? Why do you consider this person wise? Why do you think this passage says that wisdom begins with respect for God?

What is one thing we can do this week to show respect for God?

PRAYER: Pray for each family member by name, asking God to help him or her live wisely in God's eyes. As you mention family names, give each person a small reminder of what you talked about during this devotion. For example, you might give an odd utensil that you used during the meal, or a slip of paper with Proverbs 9:10 written on it. After prayer, encourage everyone to put their reminders in prominent places in their rooms this week to help them focus on God's wisdom for living. (*52 Fun Family Devotions by Mike and Amy Nappa, 1994*)

VBS 2010 SCHEDULE



It is that time of year when our thoughts turn to summer and Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Bethany and Bethany-Elimc- June 14 to 17 from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Grace: June 7 to 11 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Peace: Dates to be announced

St Paul: July 25 to 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES



First Communion Classes are planned for Saturdays April 10 (Peace), April 24 (Grace), and May 1 (Bethany: Come early for May Day Family event) & May 15 (Bethany-Elim: Make-up

Date) from 6:30 to 8pm with a light supper after the Saturday night worship. Those in 5th grade or older who wish to have instruction are invited along with at least one parent to these classes. The following are the current list we have of 5th graders who are invited, please contact Pastor Julie [507-215-2388 cell or pastorjulia@frontiernet.net] if you are not listed and wish to be included.

Bethany-Elim: Kathy Richmond and Shanelle Buffington

Grace: Abby Anderson, Steven Czech, John Sutherland

Peace: Stephanie Kuhlman, Elizabeth Breszinski

Bethany: Katelyn Jorgensen

TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION

April is when we begin our final section of TFA.

April 7: **Divided Kingdom and Review**

Parents and Mentors join us at 6pm for a look at our Relationships. Snack: Kara Burch/Donovan Breszinski

April 14: **Prophets before Jesus:** Snacks: Brandon Hefti/Cody Miller

April 21: **Prophets: Jeremiah:** Snacks: Devon Buffington/ Tyler Epple

April 28: **Wisdom Writings: Psalms** Snacks: Anna Madsen/Michelle Kuhlman

TFA BOOT CAMP:

This is an experiment to have a concentrated week of the instruction needed for Affirmation of Baptism by those under 18 years of age. August 9 to 12 are the days with class to run from 8:30 to 3:30 at a location determined by the make up of the class.



This class will cover Old Testament, 10 Commandments and Holy Baptism. Please contact Pastor Julie [507-215-2388 or pastorjulia@frontiernet.net] for more information and to express interest by May 5, 2010.

ROAST BEEF SANDWICH MEAL

Fundraiser for Summer Servant Trip
To
Eagle Butte, SD

11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Sunday, April 18, 2010
Bethany Elim Church

Roast Beef Sandwich, chips, pop and a bar: \$5.00
Extra Sandwich: \$3.00

Please join us for a delicious roast beef sandwich and help support our "summer servants" as they travel to Eagle Butte to help build and repair houses for Habitat for Humanity. Hope to see you there!

Easter Sunday - John 20:1-9
"Christ is risen."

Find the following words from the Gospel passage:

BELIEVED	BURIAL	DEAD
DISCIPLE	EARLY	FASTER
LOVED	MAGDALA	MARY
MORNING	PETER	RAN
RISE	SAW	SCRIPTURE
SIMON	STONE	TOMB

Are you looking for adventure?
Are you looking for excitement?
Are you looking for challenges?



If you answered yes to any of the above questions, have we got a servant trip for you!

Join us for the WOTP summer servant trip to Eagle Butte, SD, June 20 -26, 2010.

This trip is open to all people ages 14 and older. Please consider going on this faith building trip!

Sign up deadline is May 1, 2010. \$50 nonrefundable deposit is due at sign up.

Contact Pastor Steve at 507-829-9164 or Anna Epple at 507-694-1340 for details